

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P.K. Gupta et al. Attorney Docket No.: 24866A / WEYE127079  
Application No.: 10/636081 Art Unit: 1661 / Confirmation No.: 9824  
Filed: August 6, 2003 Examiner: A.H. Para  
Title: METHODS FOR PRODUCING CONIFER SOMATIC EMBRYOS

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Seattle, Washington 98101

June 28, 2010

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Claims 1-13, 17-19, 21, and 23-26 are pending in the application and have been examined. Claims 1-13, 17-19, 21, and 23-26 stand rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-13, 17-19, 21, and 23-26 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Para for granting an interview, which was held on May 26, 2010. The participants in the interview were Examiner Annette H. Para, inventor Dr. Pramod K. Gupta, and applicants' representative, Tineka J. Quinton.

As noted in the Examiner's interview summary, mailed June 10, 2010, during the interview the prior art was discussed with regard to Claim 1. Applicants pointed out to the Examiner that a key difference between the claimed invention and U.S. Patent No. 5,294,549 (Pullman et al.) is that the singulation medium of Pullman, used to singulate Douglas-fir embryos, does not contain any absorbent composition. In sharp contrast, the synchronization medium used in the claimed method requires an absorbent composition. As described in the specification at page 18, line 3, to page 19, line 31, the inventors discovered through experimentation that the addition of both an absorbent composition (e.g., activated charcoal) and

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